



# consumer news

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE  
Office of Consumer Affairs  
Virginia H. Knauer, Director

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SE  
Room

## CN Notebook

Here's your chance to tell other readers of CONSUMERS NEWS how to save energy at home, at work & in between.

Energy is more than gasoline for the car or oil to heat the house. Energy also is natural gas & electricity. Then, there is the "hidden" form of energy—the fuel, electricity & petroleum products used to run factories & to make the machinery for the factories, &, of course, to make the products in the factories. For example, every time you throw away a plastic food container, you are wasting the energy used to make that container.

While this example might be stretching the point, consumers need to stretch their use of energy as much as possible to help America save energy. Below are 2 energy saving (or energy stretching) examples from the **Citizens' Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality**. (The committee's publication, *Citizen Action Guide to Energy Conservation*, stock #4000-0300, is available for \$1.75 from Superintendent of Documents, **Government Printing Office**, Washington, DC 20402; make check or money order payable to Supt. of Documents.)

- When you replace a bulb, try using a lower wattage instead of the higher one you may have had before.
- If you have a choice between burning an incandescent bulb or a fluorescent tube in the kitchen, for example, use the fluorescent light. It uses about a fourth the energy of an incandescent bulb & should last 7 to 10 times longer.

Send your energy stretching suggestions to CN NOTEBOOK, CONSUMER NEWS, Office of Consumer Affairs, Washington, DC 20201. Include your name & address, so CONSUMER NEWS can give you credit if your suggestion is printed.

## Briefly:

**Gasoline**—Postal Service is testing an experimental fuel for its delivery trucks. It's a special mix of gasoline & water that promises to give better mileage & also to cut down on exhaust fumes.

**Color TVs**—Consumer Product Safety Commission will soon hold public hearings on color television sets because more than 30 manufacturers have reported that their products may have fire and shock defects. Color TV now heads the list of potentially hazardous items reported by producers; others include riding mowers, electric tea kettles, bicycles (brakes) & gas ranges (leaks).

**Poinsettias**—Tending a holiday poinsettia? It needs lots of light, says Agriculture Dept.—at least 6 hours of bright light (not sun) daily. If you're closing curtains to conserve heat, keep at least one curtain open for your plant, or expose it to 12 hours of fluorescent—not incandescent—light every day. (Footnote for plant lovers: Save plastic pots. They may soon be scarce.)

**No defect**—After a 3-year investigation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has decided that Ford Motor Co. was correct in not recalling more than 4 million cars for adjustment of lower control arms. These arms, which support the front wheels, were originally suspected of being defective. The study convinced NHTSA that reported breaks were caused by frequent impact with curbs, median barriers & similar obstacles.

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## Warning!

• **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)** warns consumers to immediately discontinue use of the Rogers Disposable adjustable butane lighter & some Rogers Butane Fuel Refills. CPSC says the lighters can create a flame over a foot long & do not extinguish automatically if dropped. Some refills may be defective, resulting in butane leakage & fire. The lighters come in a variety of colors & sell for \$1.29. On bottom of lighter are the words "Poppell—Made in Holland." Consumers should return these lighters to the store from which they were bought. Consolidated Cigar, distributor of the Rogers lighter, will make a refund to consumers returning lighters. Only refills identified with the words "New Acu-Klick Valve For Positive On/Off Filling Action" on top of the refill can are involved in the warning. Consumers should return these refills to the store from which they were bought to get a replacement.

• CPSC also warns owners of "Electric Heater Log" decorative fireplaces to immediately unplug the units to avoid a possible fire. The units contain an electric heater & run on 220 volts. All are model #48. The number is marked on a foil sticker on the rear of the heater. Dyna Manufacturing Co. Inc. makes the heaters, which is sold by Sears, Roebuck & Co.; Montgomery Ward Co.; J.C. Penney Co., & other stores. Consumers should contact the store from which they bought the heater to have it repaired free of charge.

• **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)** warns consumers not to eat Aprikern & Bee-Seventeen, which are sold in capsule form, usually by health food stores. The distributor is General Research Laboratories. Both products are made from apricot kernels. FDA has found that both products contain potentially dangerous levels of hydrogen cyanide. An Aprikern capsule, for example, contains an average of 2 mg. of hydrogen cyanide. FDA scientists estimate that a child swallowing 5 of these capsules could die of cyanide poisoning. Twenty capsules could be fatal to an adult. FDA advises consumers to destroy any supplies of the 2 products.

• **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)** advises consumers that some Model 700 child seat belt harnesses made by Hanksraft Co. Inc. have failed to meet Federal safety standards. Hanksraft made them from 1968 to the end of 1971, including some for sale by Montgomery Ward Co. Consumers should return harnesses to Hanksraft in Reedsburg, WI, for a refund.

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